

CABINET PORTFOLIO SUMMARY REPORT

REPORT OF	COUNCILLOR ANN McLACHLAN
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The first three months of this financial year have seen significant progress in delivering on our improvement agenda.

1. IMPROVEMENT PLAN

A comprehensive progress report was considered by Cabinet on 13th June. This detailed the delivery of the Plan during the first six months. Of the 45 objectives set out in the original plan, more than half are either completed or on track and nearing completion. We have reviewed all the milestones for the Plan to ensure they are realistic in the light of the significant challenges that face us.

It is recognised the Improvement Plan was developed at a time when the Council was in a very different place than it is now. As such it contained many of the basic building blocks that needed putting in place to make the organisation ready for more transformational change. The Improvement Board acknowledges the progress made but has highlighted the need for the Council to focus on moving away from a list of improvement activities towards a clearer definition of the outcomes we are seeking to achieve, to deliver the organisation we want to be in the future.

2. TRANSFORMATIONAL PROJECTS

In May 2013, Cabinet endorsed the development of seven key transformational projects which are aimed at delivering service differently and more effectively in the future. The projects will be designed to find future savings to tackle the Council's financial challenges but also to deliver improved and innovative services to our local residents.

The projects that are being developed are:

1. *Asset Management* – to effectively review the Council's office accommodation and buildings within Wirral's communities.
2. *Technical Functions* – to explore the effective delivery of a range of technical services including environment health, trading standards and building control.
3. *Neighbourhood Working* – to develop local plans that will deliver more efficient local service and devolve budgets through the establishment of four constituency committees.
4. *Transforming Business Support* – to establish a single business administration to integrate a range of administrative functions and provide support to services.

5. *Leisure Services* – to ensure the Council's leisure provision meets local residents needs and is financially sustainable.
6. *Strategic Commissioning* – to adopt a corporate approach to commission in order to reduce costs and establish a robust contract monitoring arrangements.
7. *Transforming Children's and Adults Services* – to strengthen financial, performance and commissioning arrangements, focus on early intervention and prevention and engaging effectively with service users and partners.

A governance board will be established to oversee the delivery of the transformational projects.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM

Significant work has been going on to implement the changes to the constitution agreed in April. Four policy and performance committees have been established and inaugural meetings are being held throughout July. Preparations have also been under way to establish the new constituency committees, the first meetings of which are scheduled for the autumn. A programme of member training is being run throughout summer to support the new approaches to constituency working and scrutiny.

4. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK 2013/14

- Performance frameworks for the Corporate Plan and Directorate plans have been developed (e.g. KPI's, trajectories, RAG tolerances, Accountable Officer responsibilities etc). These Corporate Plans and Performance Management Frameworks are scheduled for discussion at the July Cabinet and July Council.
- Both will be performance monitored and managed on a monthly basis (and submitted to DMT's and quarterly Policy and Performance Committees)

PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & BUSINESS PLANNING INFRASTRUCTURE

- A project plan to address the recommendations of Internal Audit (and the Peer Challenge) with regards to performance management and business planning processes has been developed.

It will be taken to Cabinet for approval and to the Coordinating Policy and Performance Committee for on-going scrutiny.

I will continue to work with Members on these issues and encourage them to engage with helping to shape and understand our future.